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FLORIDA HERITAGE

WINTER 1994

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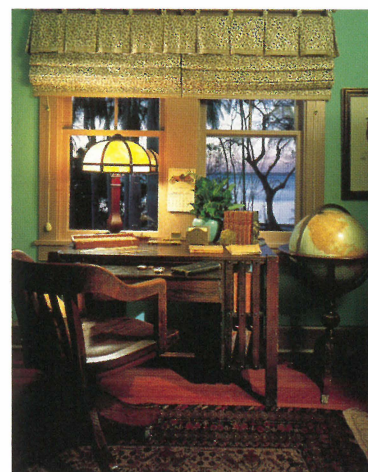
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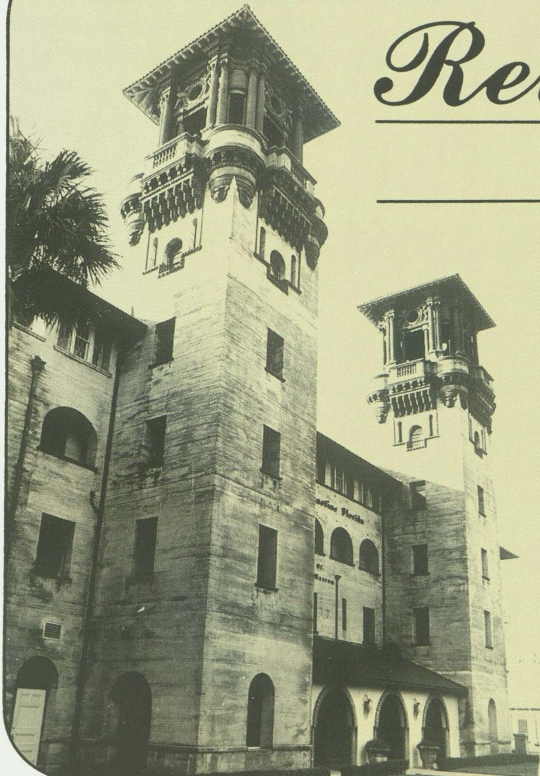
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RUSTY ENNEMOSER
EDITOR

MICHAEL ZIMNY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

PHILLIP M. POLLOCK
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

DEEDEE CELANDER
DESIGN

GARY GOODWIN
ADVERTISING MANAGER

JUDITH CARPENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

GEORGE W. PERCY
DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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IN THIS ISSUE

FROM WORLD-CLASS MUSEUMS TO FAMILY FUN

Our third issue of *Florida Heritage* takes us from one end of the state to the other, from living history to living culture, and into the magnificent homes of fascinating people, all part of our quest to take you to Florida's historic sites and events.

For our cover story, Michael Zimny gives us a historical angle on the state's biggest county, starting at the Atlantic Ocean with elegant mansions, wonderful art museums and fantastic examples of restored buildings. We travel inland to the shores of Lake Okeechobee, where cracker cowboys

still rope and ride and the fishing is among the world's best. Those of you planning to attend the Florida Trust's annual meeting in May will especially want to bone up on Palm Beach County's historic places.

Traveling to the other end of the state, DeFuniak Springs is a true panhandle surprise, where Victorian homes surround the quiet waters of a spring-fed lake.

Phillip Pollock takes us inside the gracious Fort Myers homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, two incredible men who left indelible marks, not just on Florida, but on the entire world.

We feature two upcoming events in this issue, both great ways to experience Florida's heritage. February and March bring re-enactments of Civil War battles all over the state, with Civil War enthusiasts replaying Florida's skirmishes with authentic weapons and dress.

Finally, Phillip delivers us to the Florida Folk Festival in the tiny North Florida town of White Springs. The May festival is possibly the best of its kind in the country, and once you go, you'll want to return every Memorial Weekend, for the music, the food and the characters you'll meet.

The magazine team is hard at work on the summer issue, which will feature the Morikami Museum in Delray Beach, Sarasota's Spanish Point, the riverfront city of Sanford, a driving trip along the Apalachicola River basin, and a tour of Key West, site of the Florida Trust's fall tour this year.

We love your letters! Please continue to let us know how you like *Florida Heritage* and where you'd like to travel in future issues.



Seagull Cottage, Palm Beach

Items of interest from around the state.

PENSACOLA WRECK CONFIRMS FLORIDA'S OLDEST

State underwater archaeologists working in Pensacola Bay have confirmed the discovery of the oldest shipwreck in Florida. Dr. Roger C. Smith, State Underwater Archaeologist, said the sixteenth century colonial Spanish shipwreck has begun to reveal more clues to its age and identity, and that the ship appears to have been larger than previously suspected.

The Emanuel Point Shipwreck was discovered in late 1992 by underwater archaeologists from the Florida Division of Historical Resources during a survey and inventory of Pensacola Bay. The site was found in one of four areas thought to have been the most likely locations for the landing place of the first Spanish attempt to colonize Florida by Tristán de Luna in 1559. Luna's expedition failed after a hurricane destroyed most of the ships in the fleet shortly after their arrival. (See the Summer, 1993 issue of

Florida Heritage.)

Last summer, excavations focused on the central portion of the sailing ship's wooden hull, preserved over the centuries beneath ballast stones, sand and mud. Portions of a sailor's shoes were found trapped in the sediments in the pump well; almost a dozen olive pits had made their way into the bilge, along with fragments of nuts and leaves. Additional pieces of sixteenth century ceramic olive jars have also been discovered, many of which still have remnants of pine pitch used to seal them. The ceramics are of an early style found elsewhere on Spanish sites dating between 1490 and 1570.

The most stunning and unique artifact from the ship's bilge is a small hand-carved silhouette of a Spanish galleon. Carved with a knife from soft wood, the artifact was apparently whittled by someone who was intimately familiar with the ships of the period. The carving shows in profile a galleon's massive projecting beak, the fore and stern castles, and its sloping square stern. "This is the stuff that stories are made of," said Della Scott, project field supervisor. "Perhaps one of the carpenter's gang was idly passing the time with his pocket knife when his supervisor appeared and told him to get to work," she suggested.

Smith thinks it's likely the tiny galleon was deposited when the ship was under construction, since it was found in the lowest

part of the interior planking beneath the ballast stones.

Also found in the wreck was an intriguing crude metal jug with a handle, probably used to heat liquids on a woodstove. It appears to be made of tin, although tests are still being conducted to determine its content. The jug, which resembles a chuckwagon coffee pot, has a wide bottom to keep it from tipping over in heavy seas.

Excavations were concluded at the end of September, and will continue next spring. During the winter, artifact analysis and conservation, report writing, and fund-raising will occupy the researchers. The Division and the University of West Florida have agreed to participate in a five-year research project to investigate the shipwreck, and to develop a marine archaeology program at University of West Florida, which would be the first within the state uni-

versity system. In conjunction with the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, plans are underway to establish a conservation facility for the shipwreck, and to prepare artifacts and other materials for a major interpretive museum exhibit in downtown Pensacola.

For the moment, a major question that remains is whether this shipwreck is associated with the ill-fated fleet of Tristán de Luna. "So far it looks like a good candidate for a Luna ship," Dr. Smith said. "It's definitely Spanish, and its construction and related artifacts are tending toward the middle of the sixteenth century. There are probably other similar wrecks in this part of Pensacola Bay, that we need to look at as well. This find is just the tip of the iceberg of the potential number of sites that lie hidden in Pensacola Bay." —R.E.



LEFT, ROY LEIT; RIGHT, ROGER SMITH



CALLING ALL PRESERVATIONISTS!

The coming months offer three exciting events for preservationists to attend. First, Historic Preservation Day will be held on March 1-2 in Tallahassee. Sponsored by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Day invites you to voice your support for historic preservation to the members of your legislative delegation. The two-day event opens with a reception at the Governor's Club, followed by a legislative briefing to help prepare you for lobbying the following day. This year the Florida Trust will staff an office in the Old Capitol to assist you in making appointments with legislators. To make the most of your time, the Trust urges you to contact legislators before coming to Tallahassee and invite them to visit your preservation projects while at home.

Florida will host the National Town Meeting on Main Street May 1-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Tampa. The National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation sponsors this annual event which brings hundreds of persons from around the country interested in downtown revitalization and historic preservation for three days of learning and networking. The conference is financed



in part with a grant from the Bureau of Historic Preservation. The Florida Redevelopment Association and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation will also sponsor the meeting and focus attention on accomplishments of the Florida Main Street program.

Finally, the Florida Trust's annual meeting will be held in Palm Beach on May 19-22 at the elegant Brazilian Court. The festivities begin with an opening

reception and the Trust's annual preservation awards program at the Society of the Four Arts Auditorium in Palm Beach. The meeting continues with professional development workshops and mobile laboratories on heritage education, design review and preservation issues in Palm Beach. On the lighter side, the meeting will feature a special reception at the Flagler Museum and tours of Palm Beach County attractions.

For information on Historic Preservation Day and the Florida Trust's annual meeting call (904) 224-8128. Contact Linda Harper of the National Main Street Center at (202) 673-4219 for information on the National Town meeting.—**M.Z.**

COURTESY MIAMI DESIGN PRESERVATION LEAGUE



ART DECO CENTER GETS BIGGER

THE MIAMI DESIGN PRESERVATION LEAGUE, the oldest Art Deco society in the world, has moved and expanded its visitors center on south Miami Beach. The Art Deco Welcome Center is now located in the Beach Paradise Hotel, 600 Ocean Drive, and is open seven days a week. The larger center now offers a bigger selection of Art Deco posters, jewelry, books, maps of the Historic District, and clothing.

MDPL conducts Art Deco District walking tours every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. from the Leslie Hotel at 1244 Ocean Drive. The 90-minute tour is led by historians and architects. For those who prefer to cycle their way through the district, bicycle tours leave every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. from Cycles on the Beach, 713 Fifth Street. Both tours require a nominal fee, which is tax-deductible. For more information, call (305) 672-2014.—**R.E.**

THE MAGIC OF PRESSED GLASS ON DISPLAY AT THE LIGHTNER

A NEW EXHIBIT at the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine features nineteenth century pressed or cast glass, including depression, carnival, Tiffany and other types that epitomize antique and collectible glassware.

The nineteenth century has been called the "golden age of glass," which saw a burst of new varieties of glassware as a result of the Industrial Revolution and relaxation of government controls on the industry. A revolution in glass-making arose from



the development of press-moulding in the United States in the 1820s. Mass production of glass was possible, making it less expensive to purchase and more available to the general public. Rivalries between glass manufacturers resulted in new colors and styles.

The exhibit ranges from the rare to the ridiculous, according to Bob Harper, director of the museum. "It includes the who's who of antique and collectible pressed glass, representing custard, opalescent, chocolate, slag, vaseline, milk, depression, Tiffany and iridized glass," he said.

The exhibit runs through July 22, 1994. For further information, call the Lightner Museum at (904) 824-2874.—R.E.

BOK GARDENS REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Since its dedication on February 1, 1929, the Bok Tower Gardens near Lake Wales has been a central Florida landmark. Now its fifty-seven-bell carillon seems to ring out even more proudly since its designation as a National Historic Landmark. Reserved for nationally significant sites, National Historic Landmark designation is the highest level of recognition which a property

can receive from the federal government. The Bok Tower Gardens joins the ranks of thirty-three other National Historic Landmarks in Florida, such as the Windover archaeological site in Brevard County, the Ernest Hemingway House in Key West, the Tampa Bay Hotel and the Cape Canaveral launch pad.

Jonathan Shaw, director of the gardens and president of the Bok Tower Foundation, beamed when learning of the tower's designation. "This status indicates that Bok Tower Gardens is one of the great treasures of the United States," he said. Ben Levy,

manager of the National Historic Landmarks Survey, echoed Shaw's comments: "I would say this site is even in the upper ranks of the list of National Landmarks. It has virtually perfect integrity—the tower is today what it always has been."

The Bok Tower Gardens was the vision of Dutch immigrant Edward W. Bok, who came to the United States in 1870. He went on to become the editor of *The Ladies Home Journal* in 1889 and won a Pulitzer Prize for his autobiography *The Americanization of Edward Bok*. In 1922 he established "the sanctuary for

humans and birds" at Lake Wales and set about creating a magnificent garden atop a nearby 300-foot sandy hill. Seven years later his sanctuary was formally dedicated by President Calvin Coolidge and given to the American people in gratitude for the opportunities which Bok had received as an American citizen.

The pink and gray marble Bok Tower was designed by the noted Philadelphia architect Milton B. Medary, who was the 1929 recipient of the American Institute of Architects' prestigious Gold Medal. The tower's Moderne-styled sculpture, depicting pelicans, eagles, flamingos and other Florida wildlife, was the work of sculptor Lee Lawrie, also from Philadelphia. The voice of the tower is its fifty-seven bronze bell carillon. Cast by John Taylor and Company of Loughborough, England, the bells range in size from a mere seventeen pounds to over eleven tons. Famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., designed the sanctuary's cathedral-like garden. Undaunted by the challenge of working with little more than a pine-covered hill, he remarked that it gave him "a clean slate upon which to work."—M.Z.





PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

SPRING HERITAGE FESTIVAL

THE SAN LUIS HERITAGE FESTIVAL comes to life each year to the resounding crack of old military muskets, rousing melodies floating across sunlit fields and the aromas of savory foods. The festival takes place Saturday, March 5, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the San Luis Archaeological and Historic Site in Tallahassee.

San Luis is the location of an important seventeenth century Spanish mission and Apalachee Indian village. Each year the Heritage Festival celebrates the area's vibrant and diverse cultural past and features reenactments, demonstrations, performances, crafts, activities for children and presentations about history and archaeology.

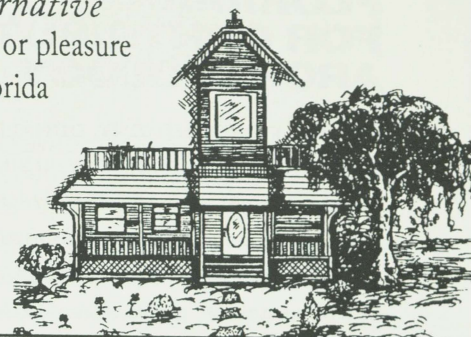
In addition to reenactors sharing their knowledge of the past, artisans will demonstrate and sell their crafts. Foods and beverages reminiscent of days gone by will be on sale to give further authenticity to the festival. For further information, call (904) 487-3711.—PMP.

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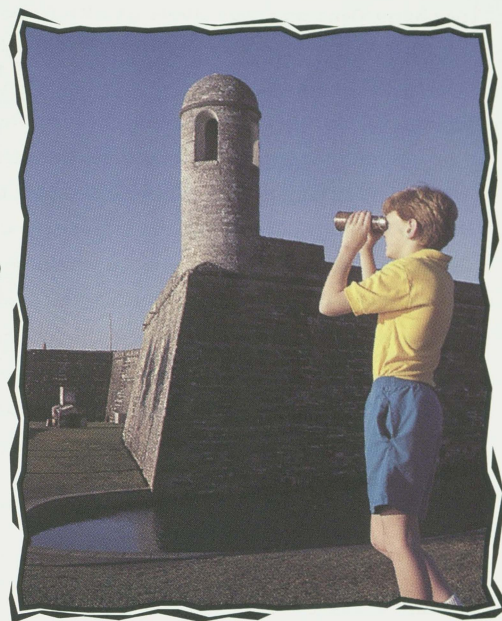
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FAC HONORS FIVE FLORIDIANS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARCHAEOLOGY

AUTHOR PIERS ANTHONY, DONALD AND PATRICIA RANDELL, AND FRANK AND BETTY USINA received the Florida Archaeological Council's Stewardship of Heritage Preservation Awards at a luncheon in St. Augustine in November.

Anthony, best-selling writer of science fiction and fantasy books, provided major financial support for archaeological research at Tatham Mound in Citrus County, which he used as the basis for his book, *Tatham Mound*. The book centers on the Tocobaga Tribe and their dealings with DeSoto.

Colonel and Mrs. Randell, active supporters of southwest Florida archaeology for many years, live on the Pineland archaeological site in Lee County, which consists of 80 acres of shell middens, mounds and plazas. In addition to providing financial support for excavations at the site, they have arranged to have the site donated to the University of Florida so that a permanent research station can be established.

The actions of Mr. and Mrs. Usina also demonstrate the important role of private citizens in the preservation of Florida's past. They allowed archaeological excavations to be conducted at the North Beach site, a prehistoric shell midden located on their residential property near St. Augustine. They also provided the funds to pay for the excavations, analyses of artifacts, faunal remains and radiocarbon dating.—R.E.

MENENDEZ FORT PREDATES PLYMOUTH ROCK

"This is the original landing site, sort of the Plymouth Rock of Spanish Florida," says Kathleen Deagan, University of Florida professor of anthropology, about the recently confirmed site of Pedro Menendez de Aviles' 1565 fort in St. Augustine. Deagan directed excavations that showed that the site precedes the English colonization of Jamestown in 1607 and Plymouth Rock in 1620.

Findings indicate that Menendez and approximately 1,500 soldiers established a fort in the area that is now the Fountain of Youth Park in St. Augustine. Deagan's excavations uncovered the remains of a four-

teen-foot wide, three-foot deep moat. Some sixteenth century Spanish and Indian artifacts were also recovered. Further digging will confirm the configuration of the moat and give information about life in the fort itself.

Other Spanish artifacts had been located on the site during other excavations in recent years, giving the impression of a settlement. In fact, such finds led Dr. Michael V. Gannon, author of *Florida: A Short History* (reviewed in the Fall 1993 issue of *Florida Heritage*), to write, "By the time the Pilgrims came ashore at Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal." —PMP.



PIRATE INVASION, FIESTA DAY LIGHT UP TAMPA IN FEBRUARY

THE PIRATE INVASION OF TAMPA DURING THE MONTH-LONG GASPARILLA FESTIVAL has been named one of the top twenty events by the Southeast Tourism Society. The event kicks off with the Shipwreck Ball on February 4, and the pirate invasion, parade and downtown street party on February 5. The Gasparilla tradition dates to 1904 when a society columnist for the Tampa Tribune created a carnival based on the legendary pirate Jose Gaspar.

On the Saturday following the invasion, Ybor City celebrates its ethnic roots with Fiesta Day, a street festival that honors the Cuban, German, African American, Italian, Jewish and Spanish immigrants who settled the area. A nearly fifty-year old tradition, the festival has grown to include arts and crafts, concerts, cultural exhibits and ethnic foods. Live entertainment takes place on six stages from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The world-famous Columbia Restaurant serves free Spanish bean soup, cafe con leche and Cuban bread.

That evening, the streets of Ybor City will glitter with the lights of dozens of floats and parade units at the Knights of Sant' Yago Illuminated Night Parade. It's the city's biggest night parade and named for the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago, a 250-member group of men who promote Tampa's Latin heritage. "La Setima," Ybor City's 7th Avenue, comes alive with lights, cannons, music, pirates and knights.

For information about Gasparilla events, call (800) 44-TAMPA. To learn more about Fiesta Day, call the Ybor City Chamber of Commerce at (813) 248-3712.—R.E.

GRAVES MUSEUM CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

From early South American and Egyptian artifacts to 4,000-year-old south Florida Indian projectile points, the newly opened Graves Museum of Archaeology and Natural History offers something for nearly everyone who has an interest in human cultures and history. On October 27, Governor Lawton Chiles was present, along with director Gypsy Graves and other museum dignitaries, to formally dedicate the new archaeological facility in Fort Lauderdale.

"There is still much to do, but in a year, we bought a building and turned it into a museum," says Sam Enslow, president of the Broward County Archaeological Society. The society, the operating force for the museum, and countless volunteers have developed a new permanent home for thousands of artifacts from around the world. Viewers are treated to rows of exhibit cases filled with collections of exotic sea shells, primitive pottery, glittering geologic specimens and immense dinosaur remains, to name only a few.

Since the opening is still a recent memory, you may find yourself sidestepping a few workmen from time to time when you visit; however, the museum is worth the trip. The Graves Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Sunday, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call (305) 925-7770.—PMP.

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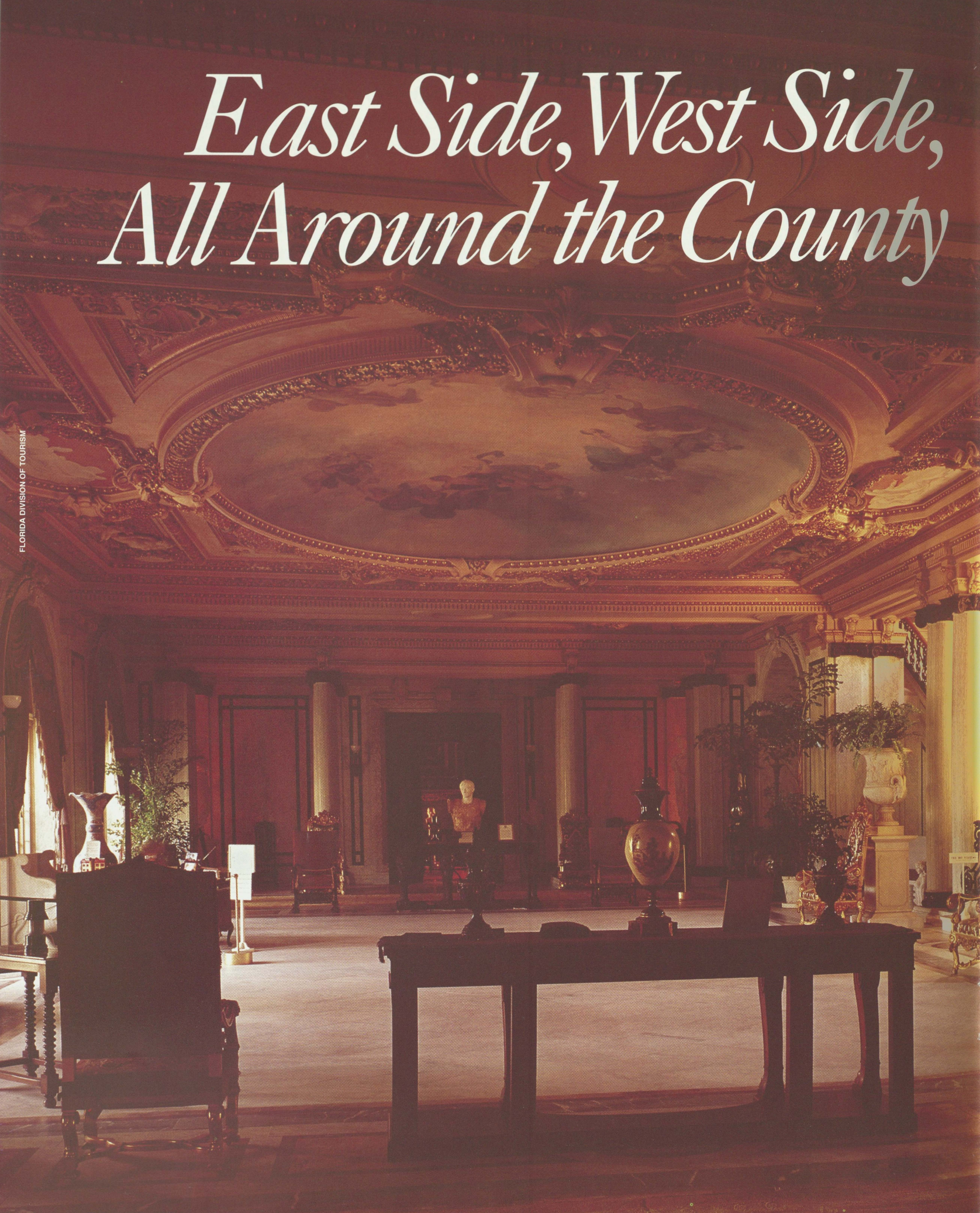
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East Side, West Side, All Around the County

FLORIDA DIVISION OF TOURISM



A large, ornate interior space with high ceilings, decorative moldings, and large columns. A large potted plant is in the foreground, and a staircase is visible in the background.


Florida's largest county offers much to those seeking the riches of Florida's heritage.

By Michael Zimny

Palm Beach County is big. Larger than Delaware or Rhode Island, Florida's largest county embraces over 2,200 square miles between the Atlantic and Lake Okeechobee. Although located in one of the state's fastest-growing regions, Palm Beach County boasts some of Florida's best-known historic attractions, such as the 134-year-old Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, the Breakers Hotel and the Morikami Gardens. Then there is the "other" Palm Beach County where the traveler can enjoy bass fishing or take solace in the quiet of Lake Okeechobee. From the lake to the shore, welcome to Palm Beach County.

Probably no place in the entire state is as synonymous with the Florida image as is the narrow barrier island with which the county shares its name. The history of Palm Beach and Palm Beach County is inextricably linked with Henry Morrison Flagler. Flagler was already in the process of extending his railroad south from St. Augustine when he visited the island of Palm Beach in 1892, then little more than a tiny settlement named for a grove of coconut palms. After only a short three-day stay, he decided to push his railroad south to Lake Worth and build a resort hotel at Palm Beach. Following the opening of his Royal Poinciana Hotel in 1894, Palm Beach quickly became the nation's premier winter resort.

After the first world war, Palm Beach and American high society

A large, white, classical-style building with a red-tiled roof, surrounded by palm trees and manicured lawns.

Whitehall, the "Taj Mahal of North America," was Flagler's wedding present to his third wife. Now the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, it is one of the finest house museums in the country.



began to change. The season became longer and more winter visitors to Palm Beach began to build their own residences in lieu of staying in the larger hotels. A new “look” for the community was needed. A relatively unknown architect named Addison Mizner who had come to Palm Beach for health reasons would provide the desired image.

Mizner’s first Palm Beach commission, the 1918 Everglades Club, brought the Spanish or Mediterranean Revival style to the resort community. Although the prototype for the style had been seen first at the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, Mizner was very successful in bringing his personal interpretation of the style to Palm Beach. By the mid-1920s the community had been transformed from a collection of wooden cottages to great Mediterranean Revival mansions designed by Mizner, John Volk and other prominent architects. Mediterranean Revival architecture went on

to enjoy immense popularity in Florida during the 1920s and could be called the state’s greatest architectural export.

Today, you can learn more about Palm Beach history at the gleaming white Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, better known as Whitehall. One of the country’s finest historic house museums, Whitehall was a wedding gift from Flagler to his third wife Mary Lily Kenan in 1901. This “Taj Mahal of North America” contains a sumptuous collection of period rooms and furnishings and is a great place to learn about the Flagler legacy in Palm Beach County. While you’re visiting Whitehall, take a few moments to view two of the oldest

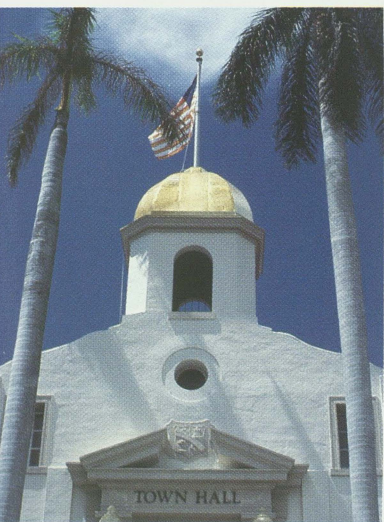
as a non-denominational place of worship; the Seagull Cottage was constructed in 1886 and later served as Flagler’s first Palm Beach residence. Both buildings were moved to their present location adjacent to Whitehall and have been faithfully restored.

Although Flagler’s Royal Poinciana Hotel no longer stands, the twin-towered Breakers Hotel built in 1926 survives and remains one of America’s great resort hotels. This Palm Beach landmark was designed by the New York architects Schultze and Weaver, who also designed the Waldorf-Astoria and Miami-Biltmore Hotels.

However you spend your time in Palm Beach, a stroll down Worth Avenue is a must. Whether you’re window shopping or really shopping, everywhere you look there is something to hear or see. Classical, Gothic and Renaissance-inspired buildings combine with the slow trickle of fountains and the passing shade of bougainvillea to create a delightful experience.

Across Lake Worth is West Palm Beach, a booming yet historic community which will celebrate its centennial this year. “West Palm” began as a service community to Palm Beach but, during the Land Boom of the 1920s, established itself as an independent community. Today it contains the county’s largest collection of historic districts. Neighborhoods such as Flamingo Park, El Cid and Old Northwood contain impressive collections of Mediterranean and other period revival homes set amid lush tropical landscaping.

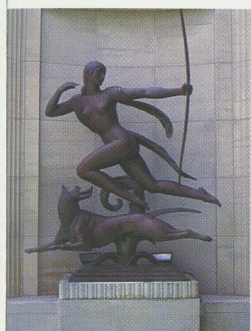
West Palm Beach could also rightly be called the county’s cultural bastion. Located here is the 1941 Moderne-styled Norton Gallery and School of Art, one of the state’s finest art museums. The gallery was the gift of Ralph and Elizabeth Norton and houses an outstanding collection of French Impressionist and post-Impressionist art, in addition to renowned American and Chinese works. Located within easy walking distance of the gallery is the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, originally the Nortons’ home. The monumental sculptures set within its garden are the work of Ann Weaver Norton, Ralph Norton’s second wife. Nearby, the pastel-



buildings in Palm Beach: the Royal Poinciana Chapel and Seagull Cottage. The frame Neo-classical chapel was built by Flagler in 1896



The 105-foot Jupiter Lighthouse (upper left) served as a maritime beacon since 1860. The 1927 Boca Raton Town Hall (lower left) houses the city's historical collection. Worth Avenue (left), with its upscale shops and classically-inspired architecture, offers a delightful afternoon stroll. Below, the Moderne-styled Norton Gallery and nearby sculpture gardens are a must-see for art lovers.



colored Armory Art Center features rotating exhibits of the works of contemporary Florida artists and is known as a center for art education.

Jupiter, the county's oldest settlement, was founded as a fort in 1838 by General Thomas S. Jessup during the Seminole Indian Wars. Its 105-foot red brick lighthouse has been a maritime landmark since 1860 and is the oldest structure in the county. Across Jupiter Inlet, the Loxahatchee Historical Society operates the 1897 DuBois House as an early pioneer house museum. Its nearby modern museum features exhibits on the natural and cultural history of South Florida.

Recently named an All-American City, Delray Beach boasts one of the most successful historic preservation projects in the state—the Old School Square. This three-building complex served as the first public school in Delray Beach. It now houses the Cornell Museum of Art and History, a meeting and reception facility and the recently opened Crest Theater. West of Delray Beach are the Morikami Museum and Gardens. The museum tells the fascinating story of the 1904 Japanese colony, and its adjoining formal gardens provide a peaceful retreat from the outside world.

Anchoring the southern boundary of Palm Beach County is Boca Raton. The quintessential Florida boomtime development, Boca Raton was conceived and planned by Addison Mizner to be "the world's most architecturally beautiful playground." Hotels, a casino, and a lake complete with electrically powered gondolas were all envisioned for this 16,000-acre new community but most of these plans never came to fruition, victims of the collapse of the Florida land boom. Still, Mizner did manage to complete the oceanfront Cloister Inn, now the Boca Raton Hotel and Club. This 1926 architectural tour-de-force is Mizner's personal adaptation of Spanish and Venetian Gothic architecture. A more modest Mizner design can be seen at the 1927 Boca Raton Town Hall. This gold-domed, Mediterranean Revival building has been restored and

houses the collection of the Boca Raton Historical Society.

Beyond the subdivisions west of I-95 lies another Palm Beach County which presents its own set of attractions. Here, fields of vegetables and sugar cane seem to stretch endlessly beneath the ever-changing dome of the sky. If you're interested in agriculture or natural history, visit the Agricultural Research and Educational Center in Belle Glade. Founded in 1921, this early Everglades farmstead has played a key role in promoting soil and water conservation. Several original buildings remain standing, including two workers' houses, one of which has been restored. Also in Belle Glade is the 1935 Torry Island Bridge, the oldest manually operated swing bridge in Florida.

Lake Okeechobee, the state's largest freshwater lake and the second largest within the boundaries of the United States, forms most of the western boundary of the county. The lake's 750 square miles of water—and excellent bass fishing—lie behind the earthen levee of Herbert Hoover Dike. "You won't see a Flagler Museum here," notes historian Karen Milano, "but you will see a collection of small communities each with a history dating back to the same time as that of the coast." ■

To Learn More

Interested in learning more about Palm Beach County firsthand? Then join the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for its annual meeting in Palm Beach on May 19–22. This year's conference will feature two days of professional development workshops and tours of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach and other county attractions. Also planned is a special tour and reception at the Flagler Museum and the Trust's annual preservation awards program. The Brazilian Court, a short walk from Worth Avenue, will be the site of the meeting. For more information, call the Trust at (904) 224-8128.

One of the most exciting ways to see history recreated right before your eyes is to attend a Civil War battle reenactment. Surrounded by Confederate and Union soldiers, amid the gunfire and smoke from cannon, you have to pinch yourself to know you're still in the twentieth century.

In late February and early March this year, you'll have several opportunities to witness Civil War enthusiasts practice the art of living history. At Olustee State Historic Battlefield and Fort Clinch State Park in northeast Florida, at Natural Bridge State Historic Site in the Panhandle, and in Key West at Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site, volunteer interpreters become living representatives of the 1860s, recreating Florida's role in the War Between the States.

Although Florida's Civil War battles are not as famous as Gettysburg or Antietam, their outcomes were significant to both the North and the South. Three years into the war and eight months after Gettysburg, the North held Key West and Fort Taylor, Fort

Jefferson, Fort Pickens at Pensacola, Fort Clinch at Fernandina, and Fort Marion at St. Augustine. Florida was the third state to secede from the Union. Its 1,700 miles of coastline and numerous protected ports allowed blockade runners to continually outwit Union ships. Florida was the main source of cattle to feed the Confederate troops and salt to preserve meat products.

With an upcoming election and Lincoln's re-election not certain, the federal government was eager to bring Florida back into the Union to secure its three electoral votes. The North was anxious to disrupt railroad lines and cut off supplies to the Southern soldiers. The recruitment of Black slaves, Confederate deserters and Union sympathizers was also part of the Northern strategy.

In an operation intended to recruit soldiers for the Union army and disrupt transportation, Northern forces landed in Jacksonville on February 7, 1864. Two weeks later, the largest Civil War battle in Florida and one of the bloodiest Union defeats took place at Olustee, a few miles east of Lake City. After a five-hour battle, 1,861 Union

and 946 Confederate soldiers were dead, wounded or missing.

The following year, during the final weeks of the war, the Battle of Natural Bridge was fought south of Tallahassee. Whether Union forces were landing near the St. Marks Lighthouse with the intent to march inland to the state capital or to stop blockade runners is a matter of speculation. In any event, Tallahassee was saved from capture and was the only southern capital east of the Mississippi that did not fall into Union hands.

At both battles, a significant number of the Union soldiers were black. Three black infantry regiments—the First North Carolina, the Eighth U.S. Colored, and the 54th Massa-



RELIVING TH



Florida's role in the Civil War was played out in battles that are re-enacted each year to the delight of history buffs.

chusetts—fought at Olustee. Soldiers from the Second U.S. Colored Infantry and the Ninety-ninth U.S. Colored Infantry made up most of the Northern forces at Natural Bridge.

Each year, Civil War enthusiasts relive both battles, recreating the living conditions, military activities and the actual engagements. More than 1,000 reenactors from all over the United States will gather at Olustee February 18-20 to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Olustee. In addition to men portraying soldiers, women and children wear period dress and play the roles of people in the 1860s, living in tents and cooking over open fires. As the troops demonstrate marching maneuvers, guard duty and drills, nearby "sutlers" sell the wares of the day, creating the appearance of a nineteenth century garage sale. During the evenings, the lucky visitor will witness a dance, complete with a band playing mid-nineteenth century music and ladies swirling in hoop skirts. On the final day, the battle is re-fought, officers shout orders, cannon are fired and soldiers fall. Several weeks later on March 6, many of the same reenactors will

regroup at Natural Bridge, south of Tallahassee, for a smaller but no less exciting event.

For those closer to South Florida, Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site is the setting for the eighth annual Civil War Days on February 26 and 27, which includes reenactments, tours of the fort and demonstrations. Key West was an important outpost for the Union and contained cannons with a range of three miles, deterring the Confederacy from attempts on the fort or the island.

If you miss the activities in February, park rangers at Fort Clinch State Park in Fernandina Beach dress daily in Union uniforms and carry out the chores associated with maintaining a fort. The first weekend of each month, reenactors join the rangers in performing sentry duty and drills. The first full weekend of May each year (the same weekend as the "Eight Flags Over Amelia Shrimpboat Festival"), a special Union garrison reenactment takes place. Because the fort was occupied briefly by the Confederacy during 1861, reenactors recreate a Confederate garrison the last weekend of October each year. ■

To Learn More

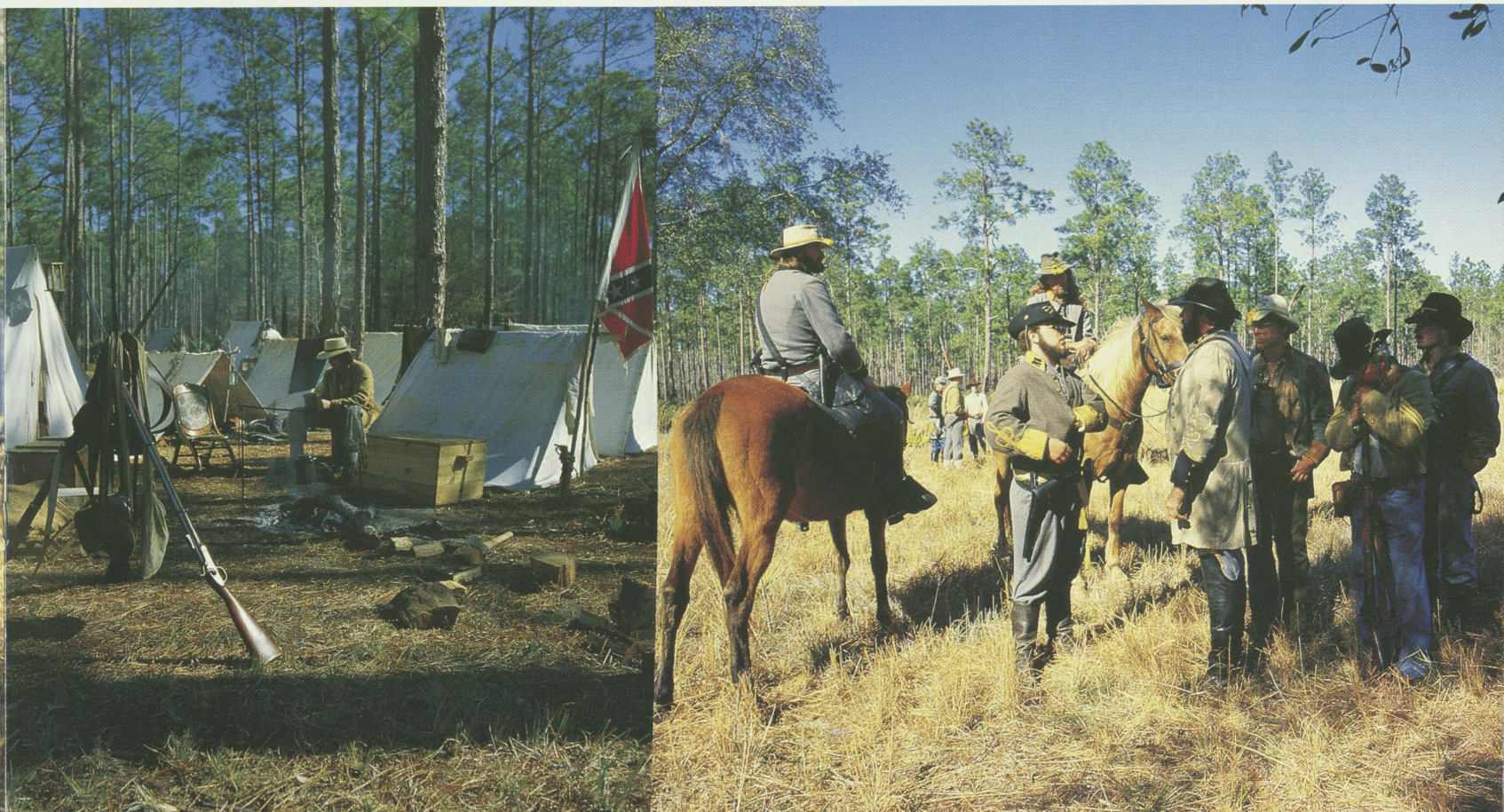
Olustee Battlefield State Historic Site is located about fifteen miles east of Lake City on U.S. 90. The battlefield is marked by interpretive signs and a small museum contains exhibits about the battle. (904) 752-3866.

Natural Bridge State Historic Site is south of Tallahassee, six miles east of S.R. 363. A large monument on the site was erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy. The park is adjacent to the St. Mark's River and has picnic tables. (904) 922-6007.

Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site is located at Southard Street in the Truman Annex in Key West. Its museum contains a large collection of Civil War cannons. The fort is located next to the Atlantic Ocean, providing opportunities for swimming and fishing. (305) 292-6713.

Fort Clinch State Park is located off A1A near Fernandina Beach. A visitor center contains exhibits, and campgrounds and a nature trail offers views of the Atlantic Ocean, Cumberland Sound and the salt marsh nearby. (904) 261-4212.

E CIVIL WAR



The Edison/Ford Winter Estates

Warm Winters, Hot Ideas

The tropical breezes of Fort Myers attracted the likes of Edison and Ford, who had a lasting impact on the area.

By Phillip M. Pollock

When Thomas Alva Edison visited Fort Myers more than one hundred years ago, the great expanses of water, brilliant vegetation and soft Gulf breezes served as an elixir for his nagging respiratory problems. Edison was so convinced of

the restorative character of Fort Myers that, after his first day there in 1885, he purchased fourteen acres of coastal property, selected the location of his home and began making preparations for the construction of one of the first prefabricated homes in America. Two sailing schooners laden with spruce from Maine carried the Edison home, board by board, to the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River where it was transported by wagon to its present site and assembled.

Edison's presence, and that of his neigh-

bor and friend Henry Ford, is felt everywhere in Fort Myers. Immense Royal palms, with their umbrella-like fronds, line McGregor Boulevard approaching the Edison/Ford Winter Estates. Edison purchased 1,100 of these trees, had them shipped from Cuba and then saw to their planting along a two-mile stretch just south of the estates. Now

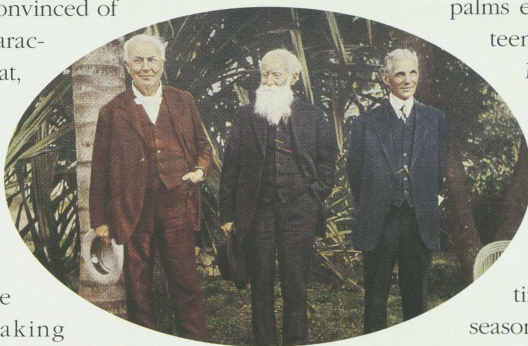
palms extend another thirteen miles on to Fort Myers Beach. They stand majestically as sentinels—they define a historic Florida trail.

Whether you visit in the summertime or during "the season" in the winter when

more tourists travel to the estates,

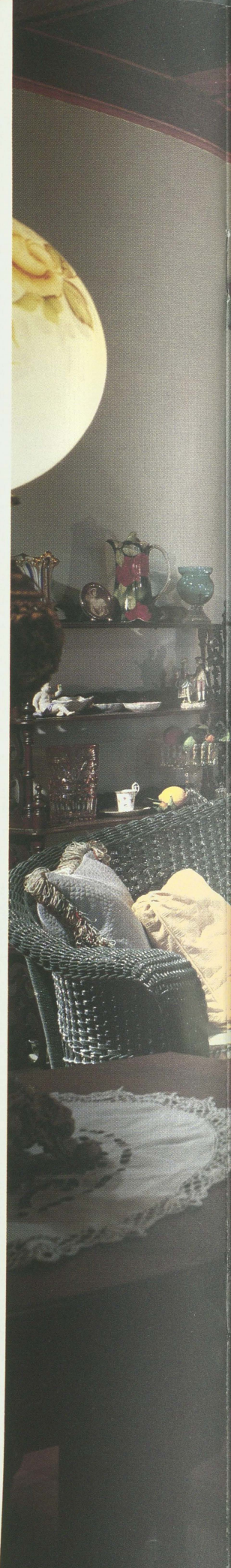
you'll have a very short wait before one of the many available guides leads you on a relaxed tour of the Edison and Ford homes and gardens. The two homes, only a few steps apart, can be viewed separately—the Edison estate taking about one hour, and the Ford home requiring about forty minutes.

Although you won't be able to actually



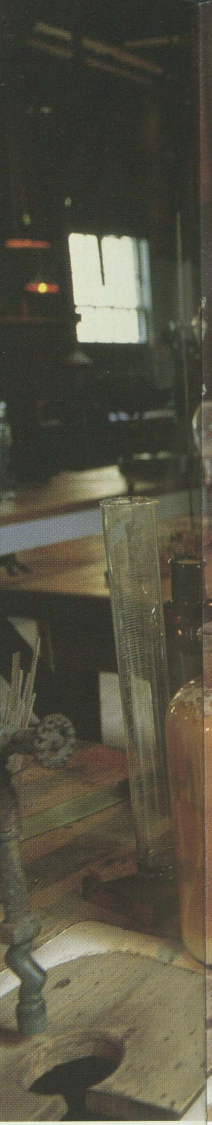
Right:
The hospitality of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford attracted great thinkers of the day to the shores of the Caloosahatchee River. Ford's living room was often the scene of impromptu square dancing.

Left:
Thomas Edison, John Burroughs, Henry Ford.





Sailing ships
brought the
Edison house
board by board
from Maine to
Fort Myers.
Edison pursued
many of his
experiments in an
adjacent lab,
which today looks
much as it must
have looked in
1928.



enter the Edison house and attached guest cottage, broad verandas offer clear views into each of the lower rooms. Original furnishings that belonged to the Edison family rest in familiar places along walls, on dressers and on Edison's study desk. Writing materials, hand-painted china, linens and a mounted peacock—a family pet—occupy the same niches as they did when left by the family.

The estates' gardens are also very special. Unusual tropical plants grow well in this Caribbean-like atmosphere. Thick bamboo shoots, with their frizzy-tipped scales, have been known to grow eight inches in a day. Edison found the delicate woody tendrils to be viable filaments for his lighting experiments. Once carbonized, the bamboo filament would burn for 600 hours. Chandeliers, suspended from high ceilings throughout the home, are a reflection of these early experimentations. From the living room light fixture, an almost

eerie brilliance ushers from beneath its six squatty, bell-shaped glass shades as carbon filament bulbs, burning since the 1920s, pay tribute to the endurance of Edison's 1879 invention.

Edison's experimental use of bamboo is an example of his practical use for the gardens. By contrast, his wife Mina viewed the plantings ornamentally and as a backdrop for entertaining. She and her friends strolled beneath the shade of the large stalks of bamboo and towering banyan trees, much

as visitors do today. Here in the gardens, Mina created a "Friendship Walk" of stepping stones, individually inscribed by the Edisons' guests who gave them as tokens of friendship. Now another generation of guests wander along the walk and see the names of Harvey Firestone, Henry Ford, botanist John Burroughs and many others.

Henry Ford and his wife visited the Edisons and stayed in their guest house in 1915. The following year, the neighboring home, built in 1911, came up for sale and was purchased

To Learn More

The Edison/Ford Winter Estates are located directly south of the old downtown area of Fort Myers, just off Highway 41. The homes and gardens are open every day of the year except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Tours are conducted every day continuously from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sunday: 12:30 to 4 p.m.) Contact: Edison/

Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33901, (813) 334-7419.

While you are in Fort Myers, also visit the 1901 Georgian Revival mansion of botanist John Burroughs, whose name is inscribed on a stepping stone in Edison's garden. The Burroughs House at 2505 1st Street is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Call (813) 332-1229 for more information.



“I find out
what the
world needs.
Then I go
ahead and try
to invent it.”

Thomas Edison



Edison's Model T, above, was a gift from Henry Ford, and Edison never allowed it to be replaced with a newer model.

Right, Mina Edison's "Friendship Walk" serves as a reminder of the influential people who visited here.



by Ford. In the years that followed, these two great inventors became very close friends.

The furnishings at the Henry Ford home, though authentically researched and arranged, are not original as they are in Edison's home. However, you are free to meander throughout the rooms of both the upper and lower stories. Ford's favorite place for relaxation was the screened sleeping room on the second floor from which he surveyed his grove of more than one hundred citrus trees and the vegetable garden that spanned the area between his home and the Caloosahatchee River.

Downstairs, the living room was often stripped of furniture for an impromptu evening of square dancing—Ford himself frequently called out the squares as couples danced the night away. It is a comfortable room with an expansive fireplace and brown wicker furniture. A large grandfather clock sits off to one side and is the only Ford heirloom remaining in the living room. It was recovered in Fort Myers after a plea was

made to the community to locate some of the original Ford possessions auctioned off upon the sale of the home in 1944.

“Everything can always be done better than it's being done,” remarked Henry Ford. He certainly saw the truth in his own wisdom as he continually perfected the Ford automobile. Ford gave Edison a Model “T” automobile for his excursions in and around Fort Myers. Edison liked this particular vehicle so well that he would never allow Ford to replace it with a newer model. Rather, he would only allow updated modifications, making it difficult to date the automobile today. It is now on display in the museum building located just across the street from the Edison and Ford homes.

You can stroll on your own through the museum and learn more about Edison's research that lead to the invention of the phonograph, electric lamp, battery and many other devices. “I find out what the world needs. Then I go ahead and try to invent it,” Edison once remarked.

In 1928, Ford and Harvey Firestone built a laboratory (adjacent to the museum) and formed the Edison Botanical Research Company. Old metal lampshades, suspended from wooden trusses, cast light across tables covered with vials, glass tubing and instruments of all varieties. Much of the laboratory space was used to develop a rubber-like product from a faster growing plant than the rubber tree. Edison pursued this research because he predicted a second world war that would require an abundant rubber supply. He turned to a hybrid goldenrod plant. Though it was fast-growing and his experiments were very successful, the cost for producing an elastic product from this plant was too great and the process never became commercialized.

The Edison/Ford Winter Estates provide a fascinating glimpse into the work and private lives of two great American inventors. Here, many great ideas resulted that electrified, illuminated, motorized and recorded an era that followed in their footsteps. ■



A surprising collection of historic armor and weaponry awaits the visitor in the 107-year-old Walton-DeFuniak Library.

PANHANDLE SURPRISE

With its turn-of-the-century homes, a unique history and a potpourri of special events, DeFuniak Springs may make you dream about calling it home!

By Michael Zimny

“**A** SMALL TOWN DOING GREAT THINGS.” That’s how F. Diane Pickett describes her home town of DeFuniak Springs. Nestled amid the pine forests and pastures of Florida’s western panhandle, this quiet community of 6,000 is one of the state’s most interesting and colorful historic towns. Now DeFuniak’s treasures are being rediscovered, thanks to the tireless efforts of Pickett and other members of the Turn Around Society. The Society was founded in 1990 to focus attention on the community’s attractions, heritage and people. “We wanted to make DeFuniak a place to go to, not to go through,” says Pickett, echoing the sentiments of its first developers.

DeFuniak Springs’ greatest natural resource—a circular, spring-fed lake—was in all likelihood responsible for putting the community on the map in the first place. William Dudley Chipley camped on the shores of the lake in 1881 while surveying the construction of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad. He saw an opportunity to develop the area as a winter resort and built a station there in the same year.

DeFuniak Springs could have remained a quiet railroad town had it not been for its selection as home of the Florida Chautauqua. Standing in the nave of the 98-year-old St. Agatha’s Episcopal Church on Lake DeFuniak, Father John C. Fowler noted the importance of the Florida Chautauqua to the history of DeFuniak Springs. “The Chautauqua was really the last prominent American movement which believed in the perfection of man. For 35 years it made DeFuniak Springs the cultural center of Florida,” Father Fowler said.

The Florida Chautauqua was part of a larger national movement which began in 1874 at Lake Chautauqua, New York. Following the

Civil War, there was a cultural vacuum in most of American society. In many communities, it fell to the church to fill this void. Although the Chautauqua began under this religious banner, its curriculum quickly broadened to include subjects as varied as philosophy, arts and music, educational instruction and recreation. Soon, Chautauquas had spread across the country, their summer programs setting the standard for religious, educational and recreational stimulation.

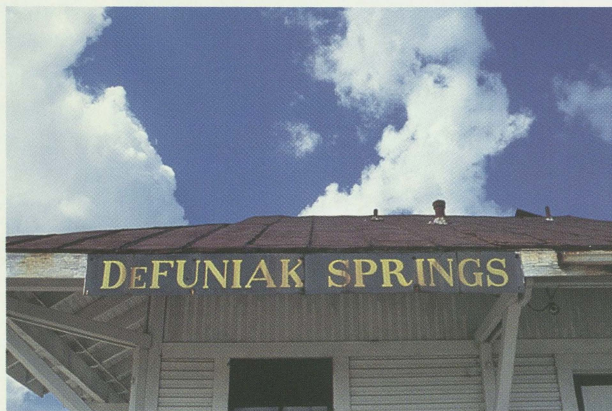
DeFuniak Springs began its association with the Chautauqua as early as 1878 as the movement sought to establish a single location for its winter assembly. W. D. Chipley was the catalyst in this venture, who, with other members of the Florida Chautauqua, was successful in convincing the Chautauqua Speaker’s Bureau to make DeFuniak Springs the Chautauqua’s winter home. On February 10, 1885, the Florida Chautauqua held its first winter assembly in

DeFuniak Springs, attracting more than 3,000 visitors to its three-week session.

As the Florida Chautauqua gained notoriety, thousands of visitors from around the country descended on DeFuniak Springs each February and March where they could attend schools of art, cookery, elocution (public speaking), music and theology. For recreation, the Chautauqua sponsored Saturday railroad excursions to Pensacola and the nearby Gulf

beaches, torchlight illuminations and fireworks over the lake. A pass to the first year of the Florida Chautauqua cost three dollars; accommodations varied from simple tents for economy-minded Chautauquans to rooms at the elegant Hotel Chautauqua for ten to fourteen dollars a week.

Changes in American culture and society after World War I brought about the gradual demise of the Chautauqua. In 1920, the Florida Chautauqua held its last session in DeFuniak Springs. Soon,





many of its buildings fell into disuse and were eventually demolished. As the Great Depression took hold, the town fell into a state of decline which continued well until after World War II.

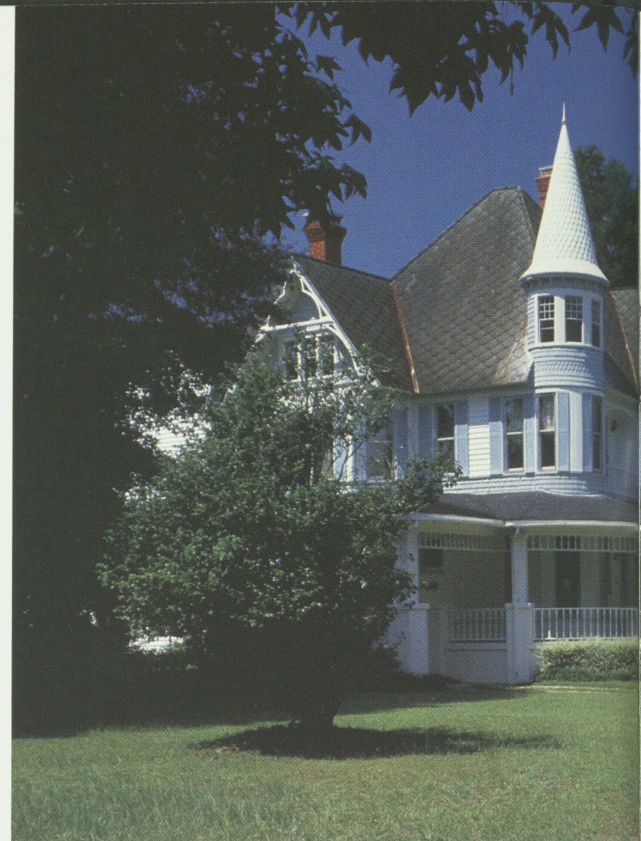
DeFuniak Springs might have slept uninterrupted for another fifty years had it not been for the efforts of Diane Pickett and others. Located less than two miles north of Interstate 10, the town offers much for the first-time or return visitor. Well-placed signs on highways 90 and 331 will quickly point you to the placid waters of Lake DeFuniak and its surrounding National Register Historic District. Dominating the lake is the original 1909 domed Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood. Take a few moments to admire this fanciful, wedding cake-like building; then go inside and pick up a handy walking tour brochure on the lake's historic homes and other area information from the Walton County Chamber of Commerce and set out on your visit.

Ideally, the best way to see Lake DeFuniak is on foot. Houses with names like the Dream Cottage, Idlewild and the Verandahs beckon your attention with their broad porches, carved brackets and spindles, stained glass windows and wrought iron gates as you walk along tree-shaded Circle Drive. If you're pressed for time, touring Lake DeFuniak by car will give you a faster view of the district or rent bicycles for one or two at King and Company Hardware on Baldwin Avenue. While you're picking up your bike, take a quick look inside this 1899 store; it still retains its original cast iron kick plates, wooden counters and rolling ladders.

However you see Circle Drive, a stop at the 1887 Walton-DeFuniak Library is a must. Located just north of the Hall of Brotherhood, the structure is the oldest library building in continuous use in Florida. Its early date of construction in so small a community reflects of the lofty cultural aspirations of its first citizens and the influence of the Florida Chautauqua. Inside this modest one-room building is a surprising collection of armor and other weaponry dating from the Crusades to the Kentucky rifles of the Daniel Boone era.

Running parallel to the CSX Railroad on the north side of Lake DeFuniak is Baldwin Avenue, the city's main street, a place where people know each other on a first name basis and stop to say hello. Octogenarian Harold

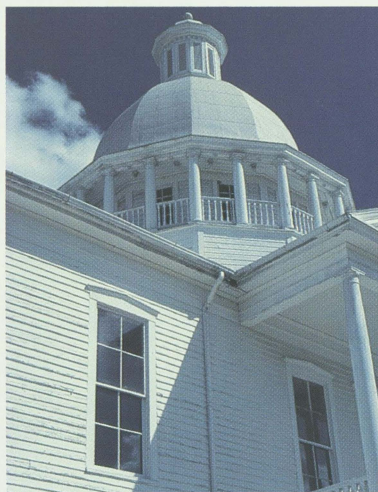
**A leisurely
walk on Circle
Drive will take
you past
lovely homes
such as these.**



MICHAEL ZIMNY

Gillis recalls when Baldwin Avenue was the only show in town. "If you had a car, your main entertainment in DeFuniak Springs during the 1920s and 1930s was to drive downtown, park and visit with all your friends on Baldwin Avenue." A simple, open air structure called "The Opinion Place" on Baldwin and 8th Street serves much the same purpose today. If you want to get more of a feeling of what DeFuniak Springs is all about, spend a few minutes with some of the "old-timers" who gather here daily to exchange stories and local gossip.

There are numerous other events and attractions to draw the visitor to DeFuniak Springs. The Elderhostel program brings hundreds of seniors to DeFuniak Springs each January through March. The Florida Chautauqua has been revived in a single-day festival held in April. A number of "cottage industries" have also sprung up in the



**The 1909
Chautauqua
Hall of
Brotherhood
with its bell-
shaped
dome and
cupola.**

*"The grand old pines are here, tall and straight. The Win
odor exhaled from every tree fills the air with soothing. he
enclosure is good enough, but close at hand are ever-flowi*

Bishop Mallallieu, The Florida Chautauqua, January, 1886.



community, such as porcelain painting, costume design, stained glass manufacture and other arts and crafts. For the visitor interested in a more festive experience, there is the annual Victorian Ball. Held the first Saturday in December, this costume gala includes dinner and dancing at the Chautauqua Building, carriage rides around the lake and candlelight tours of several homes.

Whatever the season, DeFuniak Springs deserves a visit. Pickett has described the town as "the kind of place people fantasize about living in." We think you'll agree. ■

To Learn More

Information about DeFuniak Springs' attractions and special events is available through the Turn Around Society and the Walton County Chamber of Commerce. Call (904) 892-4300 or (904) 892-3191. A new welcome center at the intersection of U.S. 90 and 331 provides similar information and displays locally produced arts and crafts. Call (904) 892-5583.



The 1888 "Dream Cottage" was built for Wallace Bruce, Ambassador to Scotland and prime mover of the Florida Chautauqua.

*ter sun makes brilliant their long, green leaves; the balmy
alth-giving influence . . . the little lake within the
ng fountains of the true qualities of perfect water."*

PICKIN' AND GRINNIN'

The Florida Folk Festival

By Phillip M. Pollock

The whole atmosphere is like a 'folk mill' where ideas and music are exchanged," says musician Doug Gauss in reference to his eighteen Florida Folk Festival appearances. "In a sense, many of the other musicians are like my elders—it's like sitting on my grandmother's lap." Gauss is a Tarpon Springs native

events of its kind. And no one can do Florida folk like Florida folks! Nearly all the vocalists, musicians, dancers, storytellers and craftspeople are strongly influenced by Florida's cultural heritage and each personality is wonderfully unique.

Take William "Washboard Bill" Cooke of West Palm Beach. Cooke is an African-American blues and jazz musician born in Flagler County and inspired by traveling minstrel show musicians. From 1947 to 1963, Cooke played a washboard instrument he designed. He formed a small band, playing for rumpled travelers at railway stations one day, then buttoned-down party-goers in Palm Beach County the next. It comes as no surprise that he had such strong acceptance with the 1992 White Springs audience.

This year, the Versiteers from Jacksonville, a women's gospel quartet, will return after several previous visits. They specialize in *a cappella* singing (unaccompanied by musical instruments), a vocal style traditionally dominated by men's groups. The Versiteers, in fact, emulated 1940s men's groups like the Royal Harmonies and the CBS Trumpeteers but tailored the music for women's voices. Today they are one of the few Florida groups that still per-



Willie James on piano, accompanied by Florida Folk Heritage Award winner Mary Smith McClain and Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program master artist Tommy Walton.



Cross Creek Cloggers

living in Tallahassee, and he is just one of many artists that comes to the Florida Folk Festival at White Springs each year. "Each year the festival has some singular character that I can recall. Sometimes I remember how hot it was, or then there was that unruly crop of mosquitoes, but mostly it's the intimacy and sharing," he says.

The three-day festival, this year being the forty-first, is one of the largest outdoor musical

forms old-time *a cappella*.

The musicians can't help being the *real* focus for the festival—their personalities are infectious. "I learned a great deal from Gamble Rogers and Will McLean (longtime festival greats) and remember years ago, listening and learning from them," Gauss reflects. "Now that they are gone, I find it curious that new, young musicians are learning from me."

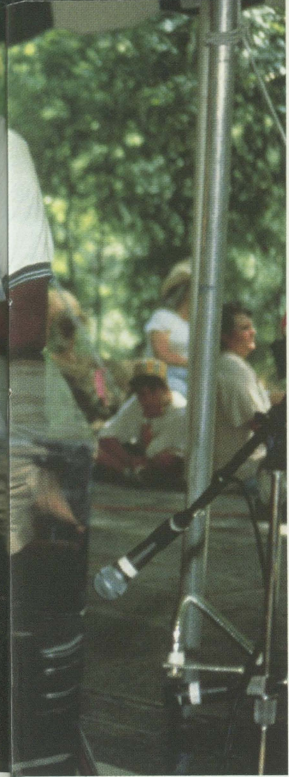
But if musicians are the focus, then the other participants—folks like Dowlin Morgan—give the festival dimension. Morgan is a dowser, a water-finder. He carefully grips a fork-shaped piece of water oak or witch

hazel, points the primitive contrivance in front of his careful step and waits expectantly for an unexplained force to draw the central wooden branch downward. Early Florida settlers relied on the uncanny skills of a handy dowser to decide where to dig a well. It is one of many lost arts demonstrated each Memorial Day weekend in White Springs.

There are other festival participants who figure prominently in defining Florida's folk culture. Betty Mae Jumper from Homestead has created and sold her brilliant Seminole palmetto dolls since 1968. Each figure is draped with tiny banded garments. The cloth is carefully chosen to ex-

To Learn More

The Florida Folk Festival is held at the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center in White Springs, Florida, located on U. S. 41 north of Lake City, three miles east of I-75 via SR 136. Campsites are available in the park, and a number of motels and restaurants are located in Lake City. For more information, call the Bureau of Florida Folklife Programs at (904) 397-2192.



hibit traditional colors and piecework that identify it with Jumper's ancestry.

Jumper is also one of the many storytellers who gives insight into Florida's past and present. She gathers colorful collections of adjectives and verbs that are the fabric of stories embellished in every re-telling. In essence, the stories are brief cultural vignettes shared to promote the un-

derstanding of differences among people.

Music goes on all day at each of the five stages in the park. Families wander from stage to stage, or relax on their blankets and lawnchairs in the shade of massive live oak trees. Mouth-watering aromas of ethnic foods like Seminole fry bread, baklava, Spanish bean soup, chicken pilau, and old-fashioned barbecue dinners waft through the park. Small groups of musicians trade songs and experiences at impromptu jam sessions and receive spontaneous applause.

But the White Springs festival is not just about the musicians, storytellers, dancers or craftspeople that perform—the visitors are equally a part of the tradition. They are an integral part of the places where Florida culture had its origin. Their neighborhoods spawned tales that have now become lore, and the daily activities of earlier residents inspired the crafts. The Florida Folk Festival is about ways of life; it is about the traditions that are the history and culture of Florida, a whole gamut of shared visual and sensual ideas that make us who we are today. ■

CALENDAR

February–April 1994

February Fort Lauderdale

Sistrunk Historical Festival. Black History Month celebration exploring African American historical and contemporary issues. (305) 357-7514.

February 1-13 West Palm Beach

"The American West": The Eulich Collection and "The Sioux of the Great Plains" at the Norton Gallery of Art. (407) 832-5196.

February 1-28 Delray Beach

"Japanese Folk Textiles." A collection from Nihon Mingeikan, Japan's most prestigious museum. Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. (407) 495-0233.

February 4-6/ March 4-6 White Springs

Folk Concert and Dance Weekends at the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center. (904) 397-2192.

February 4-19 Fort Myers

Edison Festival of Lights. A two week celebration commemorating the birthday of Thomas Edison. Gala Ball, fine art and crafts show, Parade of Lights. (813) 334-2550.

February 5 Palm Beach

34th Anniversary, Henry M. Flagler Museum. Classic cars, organ and piano music, guides in period costume, stilt walkers, clowns, mimes, face painter, films and refreshments. (407) 655-2833.

February 5-6 Ormond Beach

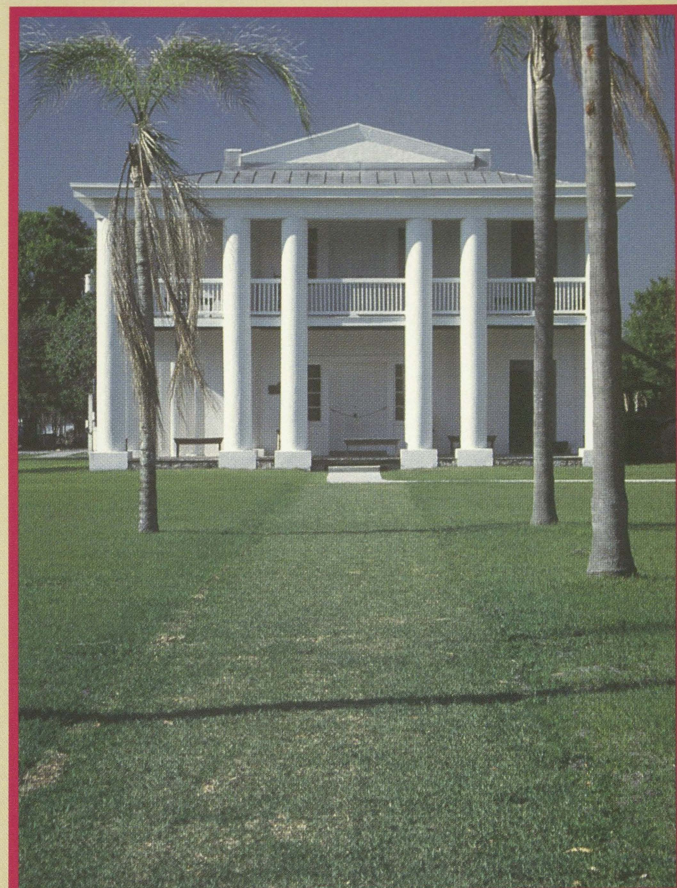
5th Annual TomokaFest. Folk and Bluegrass music, demonstrations of indigo dyeing, basket weaving, spinning, chair caning, butter churning and blacksmithing. Meet living historians, Timucuan and Seminole Indians, trappers, traders and Civil War soldiers. (904) 676-4050.

February 5-28 Palm Beach

"The Palm Beaches, The Early Years 1894-1914." A photography exhibition at the Henry M. Flagler Museum. (407) 655-2833.

February 6 Sarasota

Tour of historic homes featuring costumed docents and antique cars. (813) 366-5508.



Music, food, period dress and folk demonstrations will be on hand March 27 at an open house at the Gamble Plantation in Ellenton, the only remaining antebellum mansion in South Florida. For more information, call (813) 723-4536.

February 10-13 Hollywood

Annual Tribal Fair. Activities include food booths, arts & crafts, alligator wrestling and snake show, rodeo, country music, square dancing and a Pow Wow featuring 19 tribes in competition. (305) 583-2435.

February 10-28 Boca Raton

"A Century Ago": Artists Capture the Spanish-American War. Boca Raton Museum of Art. (407) 392-2500.

February 11-14 Delray Beach

Hatsume Fair. A celebration of the coming of spring (hatsume means "first bud of the year"). Demonstrations and performances of Japanese arts. Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. (407) 495-0233.

February 12 Ybor City

Fiesta Day & the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago Illuminated Night Parade. (813) 248-3712.

February 12-13 Marathon

Grace Jones Day Festival features the food, dress, music and customs of the early Jamaican, Bahamian and West Indian residents of Marathon. (305) 743-6064.

February 12-28 Sarasota

Sarasota Opera Festival. Four operas combined with a week-long festival finale of music, dance, prose and art. (813) 366-8450.

February 18-20 Naples

Native American Pioneer Heritage Day featuring Seminoles, Miccosukees and Mohawks at Collier-Seminole State Park. (813) 394-3397.

February 18-20 Olustee

130th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Olustee. (904) 752-3866.

(Continued on next page)

February 18-21

Fort Myers

Railroad Days at Railroad Museum of South Florida. Steam trains, antique car parade, ragtime and barbershop music. (813) 332-2745.

February 19

Ybor City

Ybor European Market. Outdoor farmers market in Centennial Park featuring European crafts, food, music and dancing. (813) 832-3108.

February 26-27

Key West

Civil War Days at Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site. (305) 292-6713.

March 1-2

Tallahassee

Historic Preservation Day 1994. Sponsored by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. (904) 224-8128.

March 5

Tallahassee

San Luis Heritage Festival. (904) 487-3711.

March 6

Tallahassee

17th reenactment of the Battle of

Natural Bridge. (904) 922-6007.

March 6

Sarasota

1926 Garden Party on the grounds of the John Ringling Towers. (813) 366-5508.

March 3-13

Plant City

59th Florida Strawberry Festival. Country music shows, agriculture, commerce, education, industry, art and livestock exhibits, baby contest, cook-offs and clogging competitions. (813) 754-1996.

March 15-16

Sarasota

Ringling Medieval Fair. Recreation of a medieval city square, living chess match, costume contest, medieval theater, madrigal singers, dancers, archers, fencers, jousts, crafts. (813) 355-5101.

March 19

Dunnellon

Will McLean Memorial concert at Rainbow Springs State Park. Folk musicians, music workshops, story-telling, arts and crafts. (904) 489-8503.

March 26

Tallahassee

Jazz and Blues Festival at Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science. (904) 575-8684.

March 26-27

Micanopy

"Historic Walk through Time" at Paynes Prairie State Preserve. Music, food, crafts, exhibits of Florida spanning 16th century through today. (904) 466-3397.

March 26-27

Fort Myers

Caloosahatchee River Basin Festival at the Nature Center and Planetarium presents old-time Florida festival with crafts, demonstrations, food, guided tours, music, contests, games and planetarium shows. (813) 275-3435.

March 26-28

White Springs

Suwannee Crafts Rendezvous, a Florida craftsman show at the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center. (904) 397-2192.

March 27

Ellenton

Open house at Gamble Plantation State Historic Site, the only remaining antebellum mansion in South Florida. Period costumes,

music, folk demonstrations. (813) 723-4536.

April 16-17

Tallahassee

Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science. Life on an 1880 farm. Sheep shearing, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, sewing, quilting, basket-making, chair caning, candle dipping, woodworking. (904) 576-1636.

April 16-17

Jacksonville

Annual Spring Home Tour featuring 10 pre-1939 homes in the Riverside/Avondale area. (904) 389-2449.

April 23

St. Augustine

"An Evening in Colonial St. Augustine." Candlelight tour of the Spanish Quarter Living History Museum and a concert under the stars. (904) 825-5033.

May 1-4

Tampa

National Town Meeting on Main Street. Annual Conference of the National Main Street Center. (202) 673-4000.

May 7-8

Fernandina Beach

Union garrison reenactment at Fort Clinch State Park. (904) 277-7274.

May 14

Chipley

Historic Day at Falling Waters State Recreation Area. Indian artifacts, farm tools, demonstrations in regional early 20th-century crafts. (904) 638-6130.

May 19-22

Palm Beach

Florida Trust Annual Meeting. (904) 224-8128.

May 27-29

White Springs

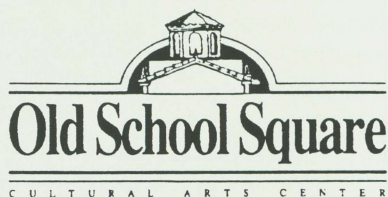
42nd Annual Florida Folk Festival at Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center. Folk songs, dance, crafts, food. (904) 397-2733.

May 28-29

Jacksonville

Kuumba Festival. Celebration of African American heritage and culture at Clanzel Brown Park. (904) 353-2270.

Please call the number listed to verify dates. There may be an admission charge for some events. Listings for the calendar section should be mailed at least four months in advance to Florida Heritage Magazine, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, or faxed to (904) 922-0496.



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FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PHOTOGRAPHS OF FLORIDA

By Michael Carlebach and Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr.; *Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 127 pp.*

In the preface to this new study of New Deal photography, Michael Carlebach and Eugene Provenzo have written, "Our interest is not so much in the personal histories of the photographers who worked in Florida or in the considerable artistic merit of their work, issues that have been addressed in other studies. Instead, our purpose is to provide a social and political context for the images." Carlebach and Provenzo manage to do all of this, in a very short space.

The description of Roosevelt's Resettlement Administration, the moving force behind the photos, is a finely woven tale of one of the the New Deal's "alphabet" agencies and its commission to record the American farm as it existed and as the New Deal would have it exist in the future. Largely the responsibility of economist Rexford Tugwell of

Columbia University, the Resettlement Administration moved, in 1935, to correct outright bad agricultural practices that had existed since World War I. While agricultural property in Florida had risen in value in the early 1920s, those values had dropped 37 percent between 1930 and 1935. Florida per capita income was at a low of \$289 by 1933.

Poor farming practices and soil too thin to support any farming, no conservation, clear-cutting of forests (by 1930 over three quarters of Florida's virgin timber had been cut), hurricanes and pests had taken a dreadful toll by the time the Resettlement Administration began its work here.

Tugwell was appointed by Roosevelt in 1935 to clean up the national agricultural mess. One of the first items on his agenda was to ensure the support of the American people, whose perception of the Depression's urban plight was keen but with little concept of the rural plight. To that end, Tugwell enlisted Roy Emerson Stryker, also of Columbia, to head the Historical Section of the Resettlement Administration's Information Division.

Stryker went to work right away and soon had a bevy of the nation's best photog-

raphers, many unknown until then, recording the farm scene. He believed that it was not only the duty of the administration to record farm life for the government's program, but also to record an American phenomenon. He sent his photographers into the field, armed not only with cameras but also with the history of what they were recording.

This book then is a culmination and celebration of their work and it is a compelling one. The photos are not all of the rural poor. Many were taken in Palm Beach, Miami Beach and other coastal resorts, in stark contrast to the lives being lived only a few miles inland in places like Belle Glade. There, the adults are tired, faces drawn and eyes dull. Only the children, whose lives weren't easy either, seem to sparkle beneath the poverty. Two photos in particular, one of a boy playing in Belle Glade, and the other of a girl playing school at Canal Point, are unforgettable for their show of the hope that would lead Florida to new heights after World War II.

These authors write that "under Stryker's direction, the camera was used as an instrument of social science and a medium of communication." In this regard, there is no better way to appreciate Florida's recent past than through these photos.

Reviewed by Walt Marder, Preservation Architect, Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation.

THE SEMINOLES OF FLORIDA

by James W. Covington; *Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 379 pp.*

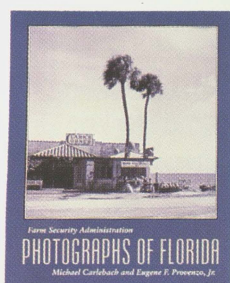
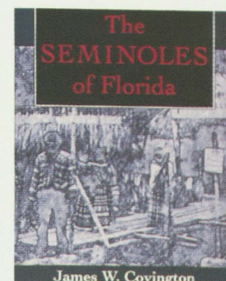
The Seminoles of Florida is a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the history of the Seminole Tribes. Drawing on a wide array of scholarly works including some recently discovered documents, Covington has condensed under one cover the story of the Seminoles, from the earliest known accounts of their migration into northern Florida from Georgia and Alabama at the beginning of the eighteen century to the establishment of the today's reservations in the Big Cypress Swamp and Everglades of southern Florida.

The author devotes ample pages to the Seminole and American conflicts which resulted in three wars from 1818 to 1858. By end of the "Final Conflict" in 1858, all but a few hundred Seminoles had been either

killed or removed to Oklahoma. The remainder of the work details the Seminoles' adaptation to life in the swamp lands of southern Florida and brings their transition into the twentieth century realities of the drainage of the Everglades, highway development, their participation in World War II in the 1940s, and continuing land ownership conflicts as former swamp land is converted into prime real estate.

Whether you are already very familiar with the history of the Seminoles, or a new student of this important aspect of Florida's history, you will find this book to be an informative and well-written account.

Reviewed by Robert Taylor, Historic Preservation Planner, Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation.

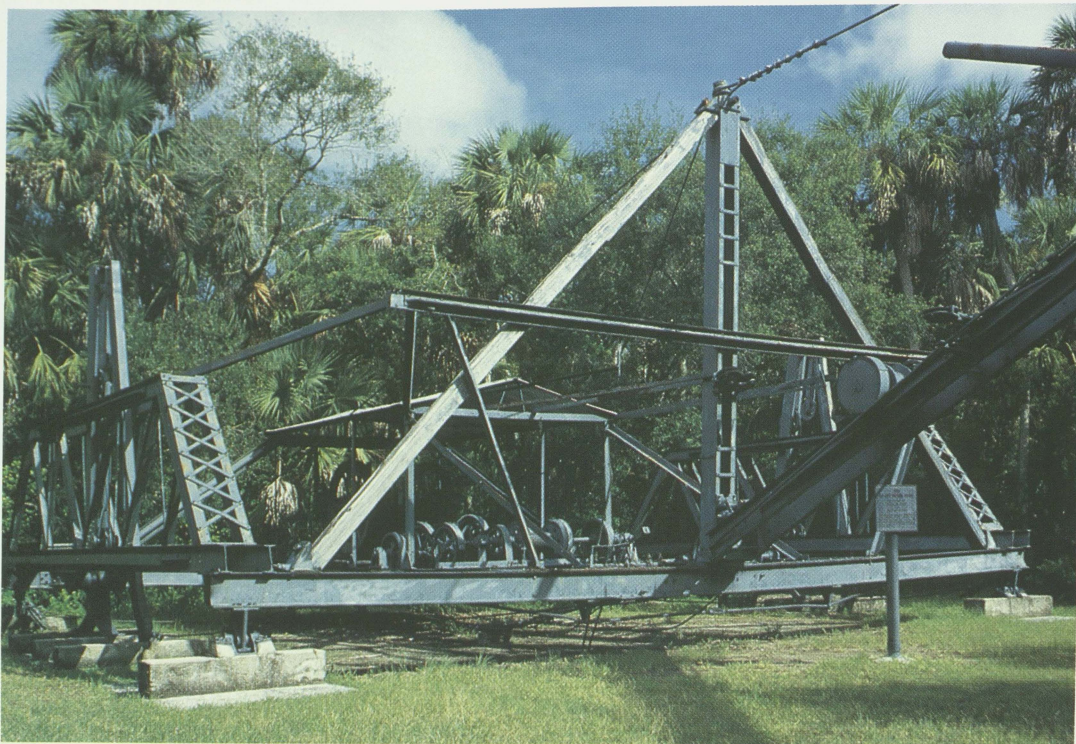


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THE DREDGE THAT COULD

Story and Photograph by Michael Zimny

When the first serious proposal to build a trans-Everglades road was made in 1915, the “glades” were among the most remote and inhospitable regions of the country. Alive with crocodiles, snakes and alligators, a layer of swampwater lay beneath the tangle of sawgrass and mangroves, making the construction of any roadway seemingly impossible. But in spite of the terrain, a firm, hard layer of limerock lay beneath the glades’ swampwater and muck. If it could be dislodged, this material would serve as an excellent roadbed.

To accomplish this task, a unique piece of machinery was needed — one that could traverse the muck and maneuver around close-cut stumps. That machine was the Bay City Walking Dredge, named after the company in Michigan that built it.

Today, standing in a grove of sabal palms, the Bay City Walking Dredge appears complicated, yet its operation is relatively easy to understand. To straddle the Everglades’ marshy terrain, a system of

skids and rollers powered by an internal combustion engine allowed the dredge to move forward along a pair of forty-foot-wide pair of steel rails. After the limerock was loosened by drilling and dynamiting, the dredge’s long, projecting scoop bucket removed it and deposited it onto the adjoining roadbed for eventual grading and surfacing.

Three other dredges were built for the second phase of the trail’s construction across the Everglades. On April 26, 1928, the entire 283-mile trail between Tampa and Miami was officially opened.

Today, orange and white highway signs still carry the Tamiami Trail name. The Bay City Walking Dredge also remains as a silent reminder of the historic highway which it helped build. ■

The Collier-Seminole State Park is located on the Tamiami Trail seventeen miles southeast of Naples; the dredge is on your right just a short distance from the park’s entrance. The park also contains a memorial to Barron Collier, an important financier of the Tamiami Trail, and a Blockhouse Museum. A tropical hardwood hammock, a variety of animal species and a nature walk can also be found in the park. Call (813) 394-3397.

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Hibiscus House Old Northwood Historic District. Elegant Florida home. Built 1922 by Mayor. Private bath, full breakfast, heated pool, near ocean. West Palm Beach. (407) 863-5633.

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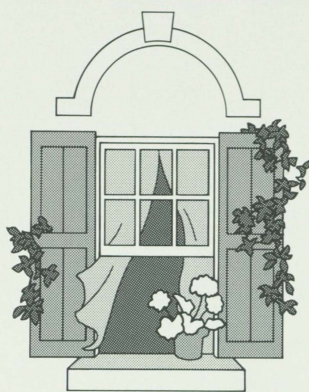
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ST. AUGUSTINE: The Gonzales-Alvarez ("Oldest") House; St. Augustine Historical Society, 271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Portrays with authentic decor the life styles of its owners through three centuries and three cultures—Spanish, British and Territorial American. Open daily. (904) 824-2872. Groups welcome.

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In the Summer Issue...

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■ **Historic Spanish Point**

Archaeology, history and nature come together in this beautiful oasis in the midst of bustling Sarasota County.

■ **Key West**

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